

INFORMATION REPORT

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SUBJECT Developments in Baltic Harbors

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Shipyard Construction in the Russian Zone

1. The construction and reconstruction of shipyards in the Soviet Zone of Germany is now under Derutat, which acts in conjunction with the Russian navy. The shipyards in Warnemünde (Warnow Werft), in Stralsund (Volkswerft), and in Wismar (Grossschiffsreparaturwerft) are being modernized and enlarged so as to be capable of handling battleships and aircraft carriers. Forty million east marks are provided for this project. Negotiations are also underway between Derutat and the Russian Baltic Command to make the Neptunwerft in Rostock able to handle battleships. New dockyards for smaller vessels up to and including torpedo boats are under construction in the harbors of Damgarten and Wolgast.
2. Large sums of money are being expended on this shipyard building program. For the shipyards in Mecklenburg harbors alone, well over 95 million east marks were spent in 1949, including over 60 million east marks provided by the Russian Zone government and approximately 35 million supplied by the Russian navy. For 1950, expenditures of around 180 million east marks are planned for the expansion of shipyard and harbor facilities. Of this the Russian navy is to contribute 45 million east marks, and the DDR 135 million, with 25 million for the first quarter, 40 million for the second quarter and likewise for the third quarter, and 30 million for the fourth quarter. Not included in these figures are the sums to be expended on submarine bases and defense installations on the island of Rügen and on the Pommeranian and Mecklenburg coasts.
3. For ship construction itself, the Russian naval staff, represented by Captain Gemachenkov, has ordered the SAG Schäfer and Budenberg and the SAG Junkerswerke in Dessau to produce 8,000 heavy-duty diesel engines by September 1950.

Notes on Various Harbors

4. Wismar. In Wismar, as in Warnemünde, the Russians are building submarines

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of the German types U-21 and U-28 and with a displacement of 2,000 to 3,000 tons. Also under construction since the fall of 1949 are torpedo boats of type T-1, with 500 to 700 tons water-displacement.

5. In 1949 the Wismar shipyards received from West Germany alone almost 100,000 tons of steel plates, allegedly for the construction of destroyers of the Narvik type. These destroyers are supposed to be almost 2,000 tons and to be equipped with 127 mm guns and eight torpedo tubes. So far as is known to source, only three destroyers have been completed.
6. A seaplane base, to be finished in fall 1950, is being built near Wismar. The work is complicated by the slow draining of the swamps. Fifty million east marks have been allotted for this project.
7. Warnemünde. In Warnemünde also, the Russians are constructing submarines of the former German types U-21 and U-28 and with a water-displacement of 2,000 to 3,000 tons. Since the fall of 1949 these shipyards have also produced torpedo boats of type T-1, with a displacement of 500 to 700 tons.

25X1 8. In December 1949, [] Warnemünde harbor two 15,000 ton cruisers, which one source reports were built by the Germans during the last years of the war. These ships, which have a speed of 36 knots, are each equipped with nine 180 mm guns.

9. Rostock. The Neptunwerft in Rostock is fully functioning again, and by November 1949 had already repaired two rather large Russian ships: the 7,000 ton cruiser Komintern and the 4,200 ton light cruiser Marty. The present location of these ships is [] The harbor no longer gives the appearance of being used as a naval base but is used as a supply base for which the Russians are said to have a twenty five year contract.

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25X1 10. In December 1949, [] in Rostock harbor two 9,000 ton cruisers, the Tyapayev and the Tyakalov. Each of these vessels, which has a speed of 30-35 knots, has nine 180 mm guns.

11. Rügen Island. Large construction projects are underway here, for which 10,000 workers were originally employed and for which another 10,000 workers have been requested by 1 March 1950. The largest project is the completion of a canal running from Tromper Wiek (Tromper Bay), south of Juliusruh, to the Grosser Jasmunder Bodden. This project, expected to be finished early in 1950, is designed to provide a protected place for the anchoring of small naval vessels up to and including destroyers. Between Tromper Wiek and Grosser Jasmunder Bodden, the Russians are also constructing a subterranean submarine base with concrete walls. The erection in Prorer Wiek of bunkers for submarines has been seriously delayed, and accordingly preparations are underway to build larger submarine bunkers on the coast of Hiddensee Island near Dornbusch and Kloster. Sassnitz harbor is being enlarged to handle heavy cruisers. **

12. Stralsund. Russian Captain Morev, in charge of the permanent headquarters in Stralsund, has under him six submarines of the type U-21 having a 2,000 ton water-displacement, five speedboats, and ten motor cutters constructed in Stralsund. These cutters, which are equipped with eight-cylinder diesel motors, function either as patrol vessels or as mine-sweepers. Recently the construction of submarine chasers has been instituted at Stralsund. These are equipped with eight-cylinder diesel motors, manufactured by Junkers in Dessau and by Schäffer and Budenberg in Magdeburg.

13. Usedom. The battleship reported below as nearing completion in Kronstadt harbor, and 25 submarine chasers are to be assigned to the Usedom naval base, which is being enlarged to accommodate these ships. On Usedom Island there is a speedboat school at which Soviet Zone police and former "Seydlitz pupils" *** are trained.

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25X1 14. Swinemünde. Shortly before Christmas 1949, [] in Swinemünde two 9,000 ton Soviet cruisers. These are allegedly of the cruiser class Kirov and Maxim Gorki. An important Russian naval base is established between Swinemünde and Stettin. Both Stettin and Boizenburg (in Mecklenburg) have been developed as Russian navy yards.

15. Stettin. The Vulkanwerft in Stettin, which is completely under Russian control, is producing every month six submarines of types U 21 and U 28. As of December 1949 around 6,000 workers were employed there, including 500 special workers brought in from various Mecklenburg shipyards in July 1949.

25X1 16. In November 1949, [] in Stettin harbor a 15,000 ton cruiser, equipped with 180 mm guns and a catapult plane.

17. Gdynia. Anchored in Gdynia is the Russian armoured cruiser Vyborg, which was formerly Finnish. It has 60 Polish officers aboard for training.

18. Danzig. In the new channel at Danzig there are reportedly twelve submarine chasers.

19. Elbing. The Poles have abandoned the harbor and the large shipyard facilities in Elbing because the lowering of the Weichsel River necessitated large and continuous expenditures to keep open the water routes leading to the harbor. The Russian navy is carefully checking the Elbing shipyards, and it may be assumed that the Poles are allowing the Russians to dismantle and transfer the equipment here.

20. Libau (Liepaja). In October 1949, the Russians began work on a special submarine yard in Libau, which, after its completion in the summer of 1950, is allegedly to be the largest and most modern Russian submarine yard. The installations are to be approximately 600 meters long and 350 meters wide. Around 5,000 skilled workers are to be brought in for this project, and Czech firms are to participate in the construction work. In December 1949, construction was initiated on submarine bunkers between Libau and Sventoji, approximately 25 kilometers north of Sventoji. Presumably these will be concrete bunkers (Unterstellbunker) used in conjunction with the submarine yards in Libau.

21. Kronstadt. Kronstadt harbor is the home base for heavy Russian naval forces. Since the bay is blocked by underwater barriers, no vessels other than Russian ships enter the harbor. The following ships were observed in the harbor in December 1949:

a. The battleship October Revolution.

b. A large, nearly completed battleship, [] to be 36,000 tons [] 40,000 tons. This ship, supposedly the most modern in the Russian fleet, is equipped with 280 mm twin turrets (Zwillingstürmen), automatically controlled (robotgesteuerten) long-range guns, nine heavy AA rocket guns, and two catapult planes.

25X1 25X1 c. A 20,000 ton heavy cruiser, reportedly completed only in 1949. It is equipped with guns which are allegedly remote-controlled.

Miscellaneous

22. Around 30 submarine chasers, 16 speedboats, 9 torpedo boats, and a large, unknown number of submarines are reported to have participated in the October 1949 Soviet submarine maneuvers near Osel Island (Saaremaa). Also participating were Soviet seaplanes and torpedo bombers from Soviet harbors on the Samland coast. The population in Osel has been completely evacuated.

23. The Russians have set up a military harbor defense, directly under the High Command of the Soviet Baltic Fleet. The chief of this division is the Russian captain Brunsinsky, whose offices are in Rostock. The Russians

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have created special devices for the emergency defense of harbors. These devices travel under water, are almost 10 meters long, have a diameter of 50 to 60 centimeters and can be controlled from the shore. Mines are attached to them and they need only to be disturbed in order to set off the mines.

24. In exchange for extra-territorial rights over part of the Hela Peninsula, the Russians intend to give the Polish Navy a 9,000 ton cruiser, after its completion.**** Previously the Russians have equipped the Polish fleet primarily with submarine chasers.
25. Almost all the resorts along the Mecklenburg coast have disappeared, and increasing numbers of people are being moved from the coast to the interior. Alone in Stralsund and Warnemünde, around 15,000 people were forced to move between October and December 1949.
26. The first large submarine bunkers to be completed lie in the lee of Poel island. Seaplane bases for the Russian naval air arm have been established at Deep and at Divenow. The base at Deep is occupied by heavy seaplanes. From Deep to Henkenhagen (15 kms. east of Kolberg) there is a restricted zone which even Polish military personnel may not enter. Henkenhagen is a radar station for the central Baltic. The next radar station to the West is at Misdroy, which lies east of Swinemünde. An air warning unit, consisting of one company, is stationed on the Dares beach at Prerow.
27. Rechlin airfield has been restored and provided with several concrete runways which are two to three kilometers long.
28. New munitions plants have been built in Stargard and in Gollnow, which are presently in production. There are large Russian Air force ammunition dumps in the woods around Schwerin.

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Comment: The tonnage figures in this report are given in metric tons.

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